(f) the venues selected for organising such melas during the year 1998; and

(g) the time-frame worked out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The Union Government do not organise any Swasthya Mela. However, the Central Government Provide financial assistance to the Non-governmental organisations and State Governments for organising such melas. A large number of local people are benefited.

(c) Indian Medical Association (IMA) has organised six Swasthya Melas at various places in Gujarat.

(d) Indian Medical Association has been provided financial assistance of Rs. 41,120/- for organising each mela.

(e) The Swasthya melas are to be organised at a distance not less than 25 Kms. from the District head quarters. Ideal site for Mela are adjoining Primary Health Centre or Communicity Health Centre campus where surgical, diagnostic, pathological facilities are easily available.

(f) and (g) Venues and timing of such melas are decided based on various viable proposals received from time to time from various authorised agencies.

[English]

Visit of British Delegation

97. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state;

(a) whether a high powered British delegation headed by the Chairman of power sector working group of UK visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where the delegation visited and assessed the power sector of India;

(d) whether any concrete steps have been suggested by the delegation to improve the position of State Electricity Boards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Accident Deaths

98. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day Conference on "Update on Polytrauma and Delivery Critical Care" was held recently in Delhi to consider ways and means to prevent accident deaths;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference suggested that an expert committee be appointed to devise emergency medical system linking all hospitals in the city, train paramedics, students, to use mass media for held bulletins, to manufacture indigenous ambulances, to upgrade and systematise existing emergency departments in the hospitals, to establish protocol in dealing with emergencies and disaster in the hospitals, to indegenise production of critical care equipments, to motivate health workers.

(c) The Government is already considering improvement in the emergency and causality services in Central Government hospitals in Delhi.

A Centralised accident Trauma Services is functioning under the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi which provides ambulance cover to accident victims.

[Translation]

Nuclear Policy

99. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to import Light Water Reactors to increase power production in the country;

(b) whether the Government are facing some difficulties in import of the said reactors due to non-proliferation treaty (NPT); and

(c) if so, whether the government propose to reconsider the present nuclear policy in view of its peaceful atomic energy programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE

OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) There is no formal scheme to import Light Water Reactors. However, negotiations are currently underway with the Russian Federation for import of two VVER-1000 MWe Light Water Reactors as well as assistance in construction and installation of the above reactors and associated equipment for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu. The Government is prepared to consider concrete proposals for enhancing investments in the nuclear power sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Family Planning Programme

100. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total grant-in-aid provided for family planning programme during the year 1996-97 to Karnataka;

(b) whether the State Government has utilised the given grant-in-aid in full;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) An amount of Rs. 9384.68 Lakhs was released to Karnataka in cash and kind.

(b) to (d) The grant-in-aid to States is both in cash and kind. The assistance in kind includes drug kits, dispensary kits, contraceptives etc. It is given on the basis of utilisation/ requirements and so there is no surplus. The assistance in cash is initially given on the basis of assessed requirement for salaries etc. and is thereafter finally settled on the basis of audited accounts.

E.P.F. Scheme

101. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of payment of provident fund under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme 1952 pending at present, zone-wise;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and the steps being taken to expedite the payment of dues; and

(c) the action being initiated against the concerned authorities for delay in making payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The information about pending cases of payment of provident fund, region-wise is as under:—

(As on 30.09.97)

Name of Region	Number of pending PF cases
Andhra Pradesh	3012
Bihar	1778
Delhi	3745
Gujarat	19045
Haryana	1189
Karnataka	9891
Kerala	3884
Maharashtra	24900
Madhya Pradesh	2541
N.E. Region	1112
Orissa	531
Punjab	3561
Rajasthan	4380
Tamil Nadu	14867
Uttar Pradesh	3940
West Bengal	19436

(b) and (c) The Provident Fund (PF) claims complete in all respects are required to be settled within 30 days. However, sometime settlement of the PF claims is delayed for various reasons including defects in application forms, differences in signatures, non-submission of returns by the employers etc. In order to provide prompt service to the subscribers a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. The Public Grievances Redressal Machinery has been strengthened and work norms/procedures are being reviewed/simplified so as to decentralise the process of decision making for facilitating expeditious disposal of claims. The vigilance machinery has also been strengthened for elimination of delay in settlement